GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:128
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2000
NATIONAL MATERNITY BENEFIT SCHEME
BHAVNA DEVRAJ CHIKHALIA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds sanctioned and utilised under the National Maternity Benefit Scheme by the Government during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the amount sanctioned under the Scheme is reaching the beneficiaries in time;

(c) if not, the staps taken by the Government to provide this assistance in time; and

(d) the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.128 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th NOVEMBER, 2000.

1. The National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) which is one of the components of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) came into effect in August, 1995. Under the Scheme, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, a one-time lumpsum grant of Rs.500 is provided to pregnant women aged 19 years and above and living below the poverty line for the first two live births, 12 to 8 weeks prior to delivery, for maternal and child nutrition.

2. The funds sanctioned by the Ministry and the utilisation reported by the State Governments under the Scheme during the last three years and during the current year are as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Funds sanctioned @	Funds utilised @	No. of Beneficiaries
1997-98	49.57	54.60	1557292
1998-99	56.56	70.47	1562072
1999-2000	67.38	71.42	1286257 +
2000-2001	44.84	32.67	502492

\+ Due to enhancement of benefits under NMBS from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 500/- and non reporting of physical achievement by some States/Districts.

@ Funds utilised are higher than the sanctioned funds in a particular year on account of carry over of funds released to the Implementing Agencies, to the next financial year.

3. While timely delivery of benefits is of the essence, in the initial years of implementation of the Scheme, it was found that certain

States had prescribed lengthy procedures for sanctioning benefits, including registration formalities such as the application forms being accompanied by various proofs (which further needed authentication by an officer at the district level) leading to delays at the identification stage itself. These procedures have since been simplified by the States in consultation with the Centre. The identification of beneficiaries and the disbursements are now being done at the grass roots level by Panchayats in the Gram Sabhas in line with the revised Guidelines.

4. It was, similarly, observed that certain States had opted for the disbursal of benefit of Rs.500/- through money orders which meant that each time the individual was not at home, the money order would be sent back to the Post Office. In the revised Guidelines circulated by the Ministry of Rural Development, a larger role for Panchayats/Local Bodies isenvisaged and it has been made explicit that funds under the NMBS may, preferably, be disbursed in cash in Public Meetings, such as the Gram Sabhas (in Villages)and Meetings of Neighbourhood/Mohalla Committees (in Towns).

5. The increase in the amount of benefit from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 has made the Scheme more attractive and the Guidelines have been modified/ liberalised. Regular liaison is maintained with the concerned State authorities and the performance is closely monitored through State level Meetings/ Field Inspections.

6. The number of beneficiaries covered State-wise, during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and the current year, is contained in the Statement at Annexure-I from which it may be noted that the dip in the number of beneficiaries is on account of the amount of per capita assistance, enhanced during the year 1998-99, being fully reflected in the financial year, 1999-2000. Additionally, while some States/Districts have reported expenditure, they have not reported on the number of persons benefitted under the Scheme.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 128 to be answered on 28th November, 2000

NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

National Maternity Benefit Scheme

Sr.No	States/UTs	Beneficiaries Covered 1998-99	Beneficiaries Covered 1999-2000	Beneficiaries Covered 2000-01
1	Andhra Pradesh	404039	336296	174136
2	Arunachal Pradesh	60	248	4
3	Assam	18303	25682	8987
4	Bihar	197322	141387	12787
5	Chhattisgarh	NR	NR	39986
6	Goa	33	71	14
7	Gujarat	21460	13038	452
8	Haryana	14147	8309	2537
9	Himachal Pradesh	2082	3100	1446
10	J & K	6508	5321	NR
11	Jharkhand	NR	NR	9264
12	Karnataka	34670	35264	15700
13	Kerala	35438	18344	3276
14	Madhya Pradesh	167046	90600	26209
15	Maharashtra	129219	87915	31421
16	Manipur	2510	1241	374
17	Meghalaya	2959	3103	600
18	Mizoram	3022	2388	1472
19	Nagaland	673	2052	NR
20	Orissa	151406	132591	41326
21	Punjab	3742	3985	NR
22	Rajasthan	48693	11336	2842
23	Sikkim	NR	551	NR
24	Tamilnadu	29485	35142	43870
25	Tripura	10156	9413	56
26	Uttar Pradesh	187924	225509	54479
27	Uttaranchal	NR	NR	3847
28	West Bengal	90688	92640	27407
29	A&N Islands	NR	NR	NR
30	Chandigarh	NR	225	NR
31	D&N Haveli	5	0	NR
32	Daman & Diu	9	NR	NR
33	NCT Delhi	NR	NR	NR
34	Lakshadweep	NR	NR	NR
35	Pondicherry	473	506	NR
Total		1562072	1286257	502492

+ Newly created States
NR Not Reported